



"Our Welcome"

In the light of God's unconditional love, we respect the dignity of every human being by welcoming and supporting all persons whatever their race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, health status, marital status or stage of spiritual journeying. We invite you to explore, investigate, and grow in your faith and become a part of our shared journey with God.

**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
Holy Baptism & Eucharist 10:00am**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Office: 517-482-9454

218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933
www.stpaulslansing.org



St. Paul's Staff: : The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; The Rev. Canon Dr. W. Richard Hamlin, Priest Associate; The Very Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer, Priest Associate; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Barbara Heany, Sunday School Director; Ms. Katie Alexander, Nursery Attendant; Mr. D'Kwon Guerrero, Sexton/Custodian; Mr. Conrad Moyer, A/V Technician.

St. Paul's Vestry: David Parks, Sr. Warden; Larry Clark, Jr. Warden; Justin Alexander; Jane Bryce; Joshua Freeman; Kelly Hackett; Bob Merriman; Jim Milne; Herb Tanner; Bobbi Tisdale; AJ Walilko; Amy Wortley; Jeff Irwin, Treasurer; Margaret Schulte, Secretary

Visitors and Guests: Please fill out a visitor card and give it to an usher or place it in the offering box. As you are leaving, we would like you to take a moment to sign one of the guest books located by the church doorways.

Opportunities for Worship - Sundays: 10:00am

Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Closed on Fridays.

Phone: 517-482-9454 E-mail: office@stpaulslansing.org

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

For Parish activities and information please check the information table in the Merrifield Room.

Baptism or Marriage: If you would like more information, please contact the Rector at 482-9454 or by email: rector@stpaulslansing.org.

Church School: Our church school for elementary through middle school begins at 9:45am. If you would like more information, please speak to Barb Heany.

The Nursery is open in the Music Wing near the Choir Room.

All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded and photographed for church uses. Entry into the sanctuary or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.

Roosevelt Parking Ramp Hours of Access:

Monday-Thursday: 6:00pm - 9:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 9:01pm

Friday: Not Available Gates locked

Saturday & Sunday: 7:30am - 6:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 6:01pm

The ramp will be available on special occasions when requested by the churches in advance. Staff members (Karen, Stephanie, Theresa) will have access cards if your car is locked in the ramp after hours.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025 – 10:00am

The Advent Wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the season of Advent, originating as a domestic devotion and an opportunity for family prayer. It functions as a simple countdown-timer of the passage of Advent. Attaching symbolic meaning to particular candles is a more recent innovation. When the Advent Wreath is used in the worshipping community at morning services, the appropriate number of candles on the wreath are lighted, without prayer or ceremony, with the other candles. The Book of Occasional Services 2022 pg. 20

The candle for Advent I will be lit pre-service at the time the other candles are lit. I encourage you to use the following reading as the focus of your devotions this next week.

WEEK OF 2 ADVENT

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”
Luke 3:2b-6

PRELUDE

INTROIT

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Creator, you made all people of every land. Today, we honor the ancestral and traditional Lands of the Anishinaabeg, the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi people, whose home this land was for hundreds of years, and who are still here today. As we make this land acknowledgement, we confess to our part in the sin of traumatic, systemic racism and oppression in the history of this nation and in the Church-a history we are only beginning to understand. With humility, we commit ourselves to acknowledging the wrongs of the past and to building relationships with the Anishinaabeg. **Amen.**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

The people standing, the Officiant says

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**
 Officiant There is one Body and one Spirit;
 People **There is one hope in God's call to us.**
 Officiant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
 People **One God of all.**
 Officiant The Lord be with you.
 People **And also with you.**
 Officiant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-10

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God,*
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously*
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,*
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people;*
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,*
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,*
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;*
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,*
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!*
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Reader A reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him:” and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN O day of peace that dimly shines HYMN 597

Introduction

1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the
 hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly
 love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -
 hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
 mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -
 lease, till by God’s grace our war - ring world shall see Christ’s
 cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1 *Interlude*

prom-ised reign of peace.
earth shall know the (Lord.)

Final Ending

Lord.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Jerusalem*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) arr. Jane Wyatt (b. 1934). Copyright © 1916, 1944, 1977, Robertson Publications. Used by permission.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

Then, all standing, the Gospel is read, first saying

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

PRESENTATION & EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Officiant The Candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Sponsors I present Ian Frederick to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Officiant Ian, do you desire to be baptized?

Ian I do.

Then the Officiant asks the following questions of the Candidate

Officiant Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Officiant Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Officiant Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer **I renounce them.**

Officiant Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer **I do.**

Officiant Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer **I do.**

Officiant Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer **I do.**

Officiant Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their lives in Christ?

People **We will.**

Officiant Let us join with Ian who is committing himself to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The People all stand

Officiant Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Officiant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Officiant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Officiant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Officiant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

Officiant Let us now pray for Ian Frederick who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader Deliver Ian O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open his heart to your grace and truth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill Ian with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep him in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach Ian to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send Ian into the world in witness to your love.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son, may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Officiant continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to

him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant Ian Frederick, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Ian, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us pray

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Officiant and People say together

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *The people stand, sit or kneel*

The prophet John the Baptist preached a repentance which would bear fruit in the lives of those who heard him. In penitence and faith, let us offer to God our prayer for all people.

We pray for the church throughout the world, remembering Sean our presiding bishop and Bonnie, our bishop, and for all those ordained to particular ministries for the building up for the Body of Christ, that in our diverse vocations we may serve to the glory of God. In the name of Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this nation and for all the nations of the world, remembering especially those who are victims of war, political or social injustice. We pray for those whom we have elected to public office and for political leaders everywhere, that they may administer the tasks of government with courage and equity. In the name of Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the elderly, those who live alone, victims of natural disasters, those on our parish prayer list, and those we now name either silently or aloud _____. We pray for those who are overworked and for those who cannot find work. Send upon them the power of the Holy Spirit, that they may abound in hope. In the name of Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community, for our friends and neighbors, for those with whom we study and work. Guide and strengthen us all in our common life that we may know the gifts of grace and love. In the name of Christ, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith. That we, like them, may remain faithful to the end and live forever in the light of your eternal glory. In the name of Christ, **hear our prayer.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

We offer these prayers to you, our God, in penitence for what is past and in faith that your work in us will bear fruit as we seek to do your will, for you alone are the Holy One. May our lives give honor to you, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. And then the Minister and People say together

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor unto the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

Tom Trenney

OFFERTORY HYMN

Prepare the way, O Zion

HYMN 65



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain

Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herren*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people standing, the Officiant says

The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing together

SANCTUS

S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of chords and single notes, with some long notes and rests.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send away empty.

Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

The Officiant and People say together

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Officiant continues

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

INVITATION

Officiant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Holy Gifts for Holy People

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All God's people are cordially invited to God's table, including children. Gluten-free wafers are available: please indicate to the priest that you require this alternative. We will be offering wine from the common cup to those who wish to receive in this manner. The chalice bearer will

thoroughly wipe the space from which you drank prior to offering the cup to the next communicant.

Another alternative to receiving the wine from the common cup is through intinction. The priest will place the wafer in your hand; the chalice bearer will pick up the wafer, dip it into the wine, and replace it on your palm. No one is allowed to intinct with their own hand/fingers. This safe guards all who use the common cup. If you wish to receive communion in only one kind (bread), know that you have received full communion.

Those who are not baptized or those who do not wish to receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. The ushers will guide you. If you are unable to come forward and wish to receive communion in your pew, please let one of the ushers know.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Alleluyas of St. James

arr. A. J. Greening

COMMUNION HYMN

And now, O Father, mindful of the love

HYMN 337

1 And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that
 2 Look Fa - ther, look on his a - noint - ed face, and
 *3 And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by
 *4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most

bought us, once for all, on Cal - vary's tree, and hav - ing with us
 on - ly look on us as found in him; look not on our mis -
 this pre - vail - ing pres - ence we ap - peal; O fold them clos - er
 pa - tient Sa - vior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so

him that pleads a - bove, we here pre - sent, we here spread
 us - ings of thy grace, our prayer so lan - guid, and our
 to thy mer - cy's breast! O do thine ut - most for their
 awe - some and so sweet, de - liv - er us from ev - ery

forth to thee, that on - ly of - fering per - fect in thine
 faith so dim: for lo! be - tween our sins and their re -
 soul's true weal! From taint - ing mis - chief keep them pure and
 touch of ill: in thine own ser - vice make us glad and

eyes, the one true, pure, im - mor - tal sac - ri - fice.
 ward, we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.
 clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.
 free, and grant us nev - er - more to part from thee.

Words: William Bright (1824-1901), alt. Music: *Unde et memores*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Officiant and People say together:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. NICHOLAS' DAY BLESSING OF CANDY CANES

Good St. Nicholas, we honor you on this your holy feast day. We rejoice that you are the patron saint and the holy symbol of joy for many peoples of many lands.

Come, great-hearted saint, and be our patron and companion as we, once again, prepare our homes and hearts for the great feast of Christmas, the birth of the Eternal Blessing, Jesus Christ. May these sweets, these candy canes, be a sign of Advent joy for us. May these candy canes, shaped just like your Bishop's staff, be for us a sign of your benevolent care.

We rejoice that you are the holy bringer of gifts and that so many have been delighted through your great generosity. Help us to be as generous of heart. Wherever these candy canes are hung, on tree or wall or door, may they carry with them the bright blessing of God. May all who taste them experience the joy of God upon their tongues and in their hearts.

We ask God, now, to bless these your brightly striped sweets in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

ST. NICHOLAS LITANY

C St. Nicholas, holy patron of children, Bishop of the East,

P be among us these next few weeks and grant us your holy blessing.

C Help us in this busy, busy season not to miss the miracle of the coming of Emmanuel in the days of preparation, as well as on the feast itself.

P Help us not to be blind to the gifts of getting ready.

C Protect us from insincerity. May every greeting we send be signed with love, friendship, and prayer.

P May our greetings, so written, be fun to open and treasures to keep.

C Kind St. Nicholas, protect us from shopper's fatigue. Show us how to take delight in the marketplace, now transformed in beauty, lights and music.

P Save us all from anxiety over what to give so that we may concentrate on *how* to give.

C Stand by the stepladder as we decorate our homes and trees and lives. May our decorations not be mute but rather singing symbols, sacred signs of the evergreen coming of the Lord of Life.

P Help us to remember that mistletoe, holly and all other ornaments of the season, were sacred signs to ancient believers.

C But, most of all, jolly saint of toys and sweets, help us stay youthful, humorous, playful and dream-filled,

**P as we prepare together for the coming of Christ with Advent longing.
St. Nicholas, pray for us. Amen.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Comfort, comfort, ye my people

HYMN 67



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Assisting in today's service

Crucifer	Marti Narezo
Subdeacon	Jack Baker
Lector	Graham Crabtree
Prayers of the People	Amanda Ross
Chalice Bearers	Jamal Dillman-Hasso, Greg Wortley
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Marti Narezo (chair), Carrie Freeman, Barb Heany
Ushers	Debbie Parks, David Parks, Justin Alexander
Counters	Katie Alexander, Greg Wortley
Coffee Hour	Jane Bryce
Greeters	
Blessing Box	Justin & Katie Alexander
Recycling Team	Bobbi Tisdale
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany,
Vestry Person of the Day	David Parks

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

Assisting Next Sunday, December 14, 2025

Crucifer	
Subdeacon	
Lector	Herb Tanner
Prayers of the People	Jim Milne
Chalice Bearers	Jen Humphries, Debbie Parks
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Nancy Merriman (chair), Jane Bryce, Theresa Milne, Lyn Zynda
Ushers	Joseph Lehning, Joshua Freeman, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd
Counters	Martha McKee, Margaret Schulte
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	
Blessing Box	Martha McKee
Recycling Team	
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany, Carrie Freeman
Vestry Person of the Day	Herb Tanner

**Opportunities for Prayer
December 7, 2025**

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Melissa, Julie, Everett, Mark, Howard, Kris, Pat, Jim, Mike, Ian, Peter, and Caroline. **Due to privacy concerns, we will now be posting first names only on our prayer list.*

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members: Stephanie Gewirtz and Kelly Hackett.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: It's A Breast Thing, PO Box 743, East Lansing 48823.

We pray for our downtown church community: Cathedral Church of St. Mary; Central United Methodist Church; Christ Community Church; and First Presbyterian Church.

We pray for our worshipping communities: Canterbury House, Ann Arbor; St. Ann's, Mendoza, DR; Good Samaritan, San Francisco, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Church of Bangladesh.

We pray for: Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; Dick Hamlin and Gail Shafer, our priest associates; our worship ministers, St. Paul's staff and our diocesan household.

**Announcements for The Week
December 7, 2025 - December 14, 2025**

Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Closed on Fridays.

Phone: 517-482-9454 E-mail: office@stpaulslansing.org

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

For Parish activities and information please check the information table in the Merrifield

Baby formula for Advent House: We are collecting baby formula and baby food that will be delivered to Advent House for their baby/family pantry. Your help could make a difference in the lives of young working families trying to make ends meet. Please place items in the shopping cart by the back door if you would like to help with this ministry. If you have questions, please see Katie Alexander johns21k@gmail.com.

Bulletin: Please submit information by noon on Tuesday, in writing or by e-mail, to office@stpaulslansing.org to ensure accuracy.

Blessing Box: Sign up in the Merrifield Room to fill the Blessing Box for a week.

Mission & Outreach working with Samaritas: We have received the names of five children and their Christmas Wish Lists. Gifts are due today. The gifts will be delivered to Samaritas on Monday, Dec. 8th. Please place items on the table in the Merrifield Room.

St. Nicholas Celebration: We will celebrate St. Nicholas Sunday today with a festive coffee hour. A visit from St. Nick himself, along with cookie decorating. We will make a trip to Rosewood Manor AFC to deliver cookies and sing carols with the residents following the coffee hour.

Lange Ensemble: This afternoon at 3pm at St. Paul's. The Ensemble will present a variety of Christmas choral works, from Bach to Rutter and Victoria to Gjeilo. Free-will offering.

Capital City Brass Band Concert: Next Sunday! December 14, 2025, at 3:00pm. Please join us for a concert with the Capital City Brass Band. Parishioner Steven Kandow is a musician in the band. This event is sponsored by the Tom & Jean Shawver Fund.

Decorating the Sanctuary on December 21: Please join us as we decorate the Sanctuary following the service. While the church is being decorated for Christmas, the children will decorate their own special "Kindness" Christmas tree with handmade ornaments in the Merrifield Room. Lunch will be provided for all helpers. Please sign up in the Merrifield Room.

Deanery Confirmation at St. Paul's: Bishop Perry will be at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 9, 2026, for Deanery confirmation. Anyone who would like to be baptized at that time, confirmed, or would like to reaffirm your faith, please let Karen+ know so she can put a class schedule together.

Recycle ink cartridges: Bring your used ink cartridges into the parish office for recycling and help reduce our paper costs. We get discounts on office supplies and paper through the Staples recycling program.

Evening Meeting Times & Parking Ramp Hours: All evening meetings and classes should begin no earlier than 6:15pm and end by 8:45pm for access to the parking ramp. regular parking ramp availability M-Th 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday & Sunday 7:30am-6:00pm.

The service of Compline is offered Wednesday evenings at 9 pm on Zoom with The Very Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer, our priest associate. The current liturgy is from the Book of Common Prayer. A recording of the service will be posted to St. Paul's Facebook page. Please feel free to either join the Zoom meeting, or the service posted on Facebook. The Zoom link will be listed in the weekly email.

Coffee Hour sign up: We need two family units per week to bring treats, serve & provide cleanup for coffee hour following the 10:00am services. There are signup sheets in the Merrifield Room. Sign up with a friend or extended family. If no one signs up, we will not have coffee hour.

Altar flower requests: There are openings for the upcoming Sundays for altar flower dedications. Flowers are always given to the glory of God, and then in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a person or occasion. Dedications and \$120 payment must be received in the church office no later than the Monday before the date of the dedication. **More than one dedication can be made if you and a friend want to share the cost of the flowers.** Altar Flower forms available on the signup table, or you can email your dedication to office@stpaulslansing.org.

Reminder: Please schedule all meetings (in-person and online) with the office in advance. We want to assure you that there is space for you to meet and that someone will be available to open the building. For online meetings, we want meetings to be available to all parishioners. **Please** notify the office if you have a **cancellation** to ensure building and staff security.

Please sign up to be a Greeter: One of the faith outreaches we have at St. Paul's is the Sunday morning greeters. We can extend our faith by welcoming our fellow parishioners and visitors each week. Remember that you are the first face they will see as they enter the church. A welcoming hand and face always lift our spirit, what a way to start a day and you play an important part in that.

- **Signup sheets are in the Merrifield Room** – Need two greeters at the back door.
- Be at the back door 20 minutes before the service.
- Greeters should remind parishioners to pick up their nametags and ask visitors to fill out the guest book located in the cloister outside the chapel and to join the parish after the service for coffee and fellowship in the Merrifield Room.

St. Paul's Recycling: Please sign up in the Merrifield Room to take some of the recycling either to your home bin or to a recycling drop off center. We are committed to reduce, reuse, and recycle at St. Paul's. See one of the Milnes or Borons for more information.

QR Code for giving. Scan the code with your phone to be taken to options for giving.



This Week at St. Paul's
November 30, 2025 - December 7, 2025

Sunday, 12/07:		Advent II/St. Nicholas Sunday
		Baptism/Noisy Offering
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion/Children's Sabbath
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:15am	Pack lunches for Punks with Lunch
	1pm-3pm	Lange Choral Ensemble Rehearsal
	3:00pm	Lange Choral Ensemble Concert
Monday 12/08:	4:30pm	Social Justice Meeting - Zoom
	5:30pm	Investment Committee Meeting - VanAtta Room
Tuesday, 12/09:	7:00pm	Bible Study - Zoom
Wednesday, 12/10:	12:00pm	Noon Book Study - Zoom: The Land is Not Empty
	9:00pm	Compline - Zoom
Thursday, 12/11:		No Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 12/12:		Office Closed
Saturday, 12/06:	10:00am	Quilting Group
Sunday, 12/14:		Advent III
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion/Children's Sabbath
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:15am	Pack lunches for Punks with Lunch
	12 :30pm	Capital City Brtass Band Rehearsal
	3:00pm	Captital City Brass Band Concert

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

I would like to contribute \$ _____

This contribution is from: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR
In grateful Thanksgiving for: _____



Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and write "Flower Fund" in the memo line. Checks and this form can be placed in the collection plate, mailed to the church office at 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing 48933, or placed in the Parish mailbox outside of the Parish office. (Deadline: Monday, December 15, 2025)